

COMMANDER'S INTENT AND PHILOSOPHY

At Security Battalion, ours is of the most difficult of missions. We are tasked with the safety and security of our fellow Marines and Sailors, their dependents, and the assets aboard this installation. This task is necessary to ensure the mission effectiveness of America's premier fighting force. We conduct operations 24/7, 365 days of the year, and we must always be on our game. Failure for any one of us could mean the failure of the tenant commands we are here to protect. Ours is, at times, a thankless mission, for our success cannot be measured in numbers, nor our effectiveness measured by operational activity. We must remember that while we may find ourselves becoming lax in our efforts due to a false sense of security, our enduring vigilance must never waiver.



This I promise: WE WILL NOT FAIL. I will continue to seek current and future technologies which will make our unit more effective, and streamline the processes that we utilize to provide better security and emergency services. We will conduct continued training. I expect more than beauty in the basics. We must show proficiency in the extreme, for our mission will not allow for a technical time-out if the situation becomes complicated. I challenge each of you to drive yourself. I expect my leaders to uphold this philosophy and be the force which takes us to the next level. Too much is at stake. If catastrophe strikes, we will be prepared to act swiftly to negate the situation and return our installation to normalcy. Only through coordination and communication at the lowest level will we be successful. I expect nothing less. Initiative and decisiveness in action will always be key in the problem sets that you face. Understand this: if you can articulate your actions and the reasoning behind your decision, you will have my support. We are not in the business of second-guessing our activities prior to execution. Certainty comes from training and, as stated above, this we will accomplish.

Above all we will remember that ours is a team comprised of people, and they are our greatest asset. This is true both physically, emotionally, and morally. The body alone will not guarantee success. We must also remember that the emotional/moral aspect of our force must be honed. This is not a sprint but a marathon, and only through blended excellence can we fight the symptoms of burn-out. Families are important, and it is through them that we often find strength when we have none. Time off is important to recharge the system and remember why we are here. At times we see the worst in people, and must take a time-out to see the good. I will remember this, and charge my leaders to do the same with those under their charge. We see the worst because we are tasked with the enforcement of the rules and regulations governing the Marines Corps or provide emergency services when lives are at stake. Because of this we must remain above the norm. We live in a fish bowl, and the slightest lapse in our moral authority will degrade our effectiveness. I will not tolerate substance abuse, harassment, fraternization, or other activities that take away from the good order and discipline of our team. The cost of failure is too high. When the smoke clears, I have but two tasks that must be accomplished: protect and serve both the installation, the battalion, and our team mates. If, at the end of the day we have done these things, we know that we have completed our task to our fellow Marines.

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. E. Cato".

R. E. CATO
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding Officer
Security Battalion